

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 3452

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served January 17, 1990

Application of CUSTOM TOURS OF)
WASHINGTON, INC., for a Certificate)
of Public Convenience and Necessity)
-- Special Operations)

Case No. AP-90-01

By application filed January 9, 1990, Custom Tours of Washington, Inc. (Custom Tours or applicant), seeks authority to transport passengers, together with baggage in the same vehicles as passengers, in special operations between points in the Metropolitan District. */ Applicant currently holds WMATC Certificate No. 43 authorizing the transportation of passengers in special operations (sightseeing tours) between specified points in the Metropolitan District, restricted to transportation in vehicles with a seating capacity of 15 passengers or less. Thus, if granted, this application would not only enlarge the geographic area in which Custom Tours would be authorized to provide service but also would remove both the sightseeing and the vehicle-size restrictions from Certificate No. 43.

Applicant plans to offer five tours. Tour I ("All Day Deluxe Tour") would include interior visits to the White House, Capitol, Supreme Court, Smithsonian, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and Iwo Jima Marine Memorial, with an observation tour of other historical sites. The proposed fare is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. Tour II ("Alternate All-Day Tour") would provide interior visits to Ford's Theater, the Petersen House, and F.B.I. Headquarters. The tour also includes a three-hour stop on the Mall. The charge would be \$27.50 for adults and \$13.75 for children. Tour III ("Two Day Grand Tour") is a combination of Tours I and II; the price would be \$50 for adults and \$25 for children. Tour IV ("Washington After Dark") includes a visit to the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial and an observation tour of the Lincoln Memorial, White House, Washington Monument, and Capitol; \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children would be charged. Tour V ("Concert Evening at Washington Monument") provides transportation for patrons to a concert presented by the United States Air Force Band at the Washington Monument with an observation tour of the National Mall area after the concert. The charge would be \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children. Tour availability varies seasonally. Applicant plans to conduct the proposed operations using one 15-passenger vehicle.

*/ To the extent this application could be construed to include transportation solely within the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is hereby dismissed pursuant to the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 1(b).

Custom Tours' balance sheet as of January 1, 1990, shows current assets (cash) of \$5,000 and fixed assets after allowance for depreciation of \$10,240. No liabilities are listed, and proprietor's equity of \$15,240 is reflected. Applicant's income statement for the 12 months ended November 31, 1989, reflects \$82,158.58 in WMATC income and \$69,376.75 in operating expenses before depreciation and taxes. Custom Tours submitted a projection of income and expenses for 1990 and 1991. However, it is unclear whether the figures contained in those projections pertain to the proposed operations only. Applicant will be directed to submit a statement clarifying the data represented in its proforma income statement.

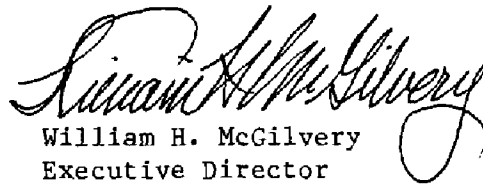
Pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(b) of the Compact, the application will be scheduled for public hearing to determine if applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed service properly and comply with the Compact and the Commission's rules and regulations and to determine whether the public convenience and necessity require the proposed service. Applicant will be assessed an amount preliminarily estimated to cover the costs of hearing pursuant to the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 19.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That a public hearing in Case No. AP-90-01 is hereby scheduled to commence on Thursday, February 22, 1990, at 9:30 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Commission, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-5104.
2. That Custom Tours of Washington, Inc., shall publish once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District and post continuously and conspicuously in each of its vehicles through the date of public hearing, notice of this application and the hearing thereon in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission, no later than Friday, January 26, 1990, and shall present at the hearing affidavits of such publication and posting.
3. That any person desiring to protest the application shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule No. 14, or any person desiring to be heard shall so notify the Commission, in writing, no later than Friday, February 9, 1990, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such notice or protest on Mr. Keith Jones, President, Custom Tours of Washington, Inc., 11200 Lenox Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.
4. That Custom Tours of Washington, Inc., is hereby directed to submit clarification of its projected income statement no later than Friday, February 9, 1990.

5. That Custom Tours of Washington, Inc., is hereby assessed \$400 pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 19 of the Compact, and is directed to deliver said amount to the office of the Commission, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-5104, no later Friday, February 9, 1990.

FOR THE COMMISSION:


William H. McGilvery
Executive Director